

toward the internal space from an inner wall of the frame;
and

A' *Cont'd*
Cont B1
a second panel having a second locking member which is engageable with the first locking member of the first panel inside the frame.

A2 *Sul B3*
3. (amended) The frame kit according to claim 1, wherein one of the first locking member and the second locking member has a locking claw, and another of the first locking member and the second locking member has an engaging hole with which the locking claw is engaged.

Sul B3
11. (amended) An IC card comprising:
a frame for defining an internal space of an IC card;
a first panel integrated with the frame and having a first locking member which projects toward the internal space from an inner wall of the frame;

A3
a second panel having a second locking member which is engageable with the first locking member of the first panel inside the frame, said second locking member comprising a guiding portion that extends obliquely toward the internal space; and

a circuit board assembly constructed by mounting a connector on the circuit board,

the circuit board assembly being contained between the

13
valid
cond
sub B3
first panel and the second panel.

A4
Sub B4
13. (amended) The IC card according to claim 11, wherein one of the first locking member and the second locking member has a locking claw, and another of the first locking member and the second locking member has an engaging hole with which the locking claw is engaged.

21. (new) The frame kit according to claim 8, wherein said erroneous insertion key has a width that differs along an outer surface of the frame.

A5
22. (new) The IC card according to claim 18, wherein said erroneous insertion key has a width that differs along an outer surface of the frame.

Sub B5
23. (new) The frame kit according to claim 3, wherein a guiding portion is disposed on said locking member having an engaging hole, and extends obliquely toward the internal space to guide said locking claw toward said engaging hole.

24. (new) The IC card according to claim 13, wherein said guiding portion is disposed on said locking member having an engaging hole, and guides said locking claw toward said engaging hole.

*Cond
Sub 25*

25. (new) A frame for an IC card, comprising:
a frame body for defining an internal space; and
a panel integrated with the frame body and having a first locking member which includes a portion that is implanted and held in the frame body, where a front end of the first locking member projects out from the implanted portion toward the internal space from an inner wall of the frame body.

*AS
cont.*

26. (new) The frame according to claim 25, wherein the panel is integrated with the frame body by simultaneous molding.

27. (new) The frame according to claim 25, wherein the first locking member has a locking claw.

28. (new) The frame according to claim 25, wherein edges of the panel are contained in the frame body or in an internal space of the frame body.

29. (new) The frame according to claim 25, wherein the frame has an outer surface exposed toward an outside of the IC card to form a side surface in a direction in which the IC card is inserted.

30. (new) The frame according to claim 29, wherein an erroneous insertion preventing key for preventing the IC card from being inserted in a wrong posture into an IC card slot is formed on the outer surface of the frame, and the first panel is integrated with the frame in a state where an area where the erroneous insertion preventing key is formed is ensured.

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed April 24, 2001. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks are courteously requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, 11, and 13 have been amended. Additionally, new claims 21 to 30 have been added and original claim 6 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1 to 5, and 7 to 30 are currently pending for the Examiner's consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These claims have been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's comments. Following this amendment, all the remaining claims are believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.